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# Senior university official seized in West Beirut

From Wire Reports

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Gunmen kidnapped a senior official of the American University of Beirut early yesterday, the university said.

George Sayegh, acting vice president for administration at the campus, was taken from his apartment in mainly Muslim West Beirut shortly after midnight, the university said in a statement.

The statement said Mr. Sayegh,

the latest victim in a string of kidnappings, had heart trouble and required special medicine.

The abduction occurred as caretaker Prime Minister Rashid Karami traveled to Syria for talks with President Hafez el Assad on Lebanon's latest political crisis.

Mr. Karami and his "national unity" government resigned Wednesday after a night of fighting left 36 dead and Shiite guerrillas and their allies in control of West Beirut.

Before he flew to Damascus in a Lebanese army helicopter, Mr. Karami attended a meeting of former Lebanese prime ministers. In a statement later, he said that what had happened in West Beirut was intolerable.

Beirut newspapers, meanwhile, published an open letter from the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, an unsuccessful candidate for the U.S. Democratic presidential nomination last year, calling for the release of five

American hostages as a step toward clearing the way for an international Mideast peace conference involving Lebanon.

The missing Americans are Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University of Beirut; diplomat William Buckley; the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian; the Rev. Lawrence Jenco, a Catholic priest, and journalist Terry Anderson, all seized in West Beirut over the past 13 months.